

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 13, 2009. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9 to 11 are in the application, with Claims 1, 7 and 9 being independent. Claims 1, 7 and 9 to 11 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The amendments to Claim 1 are seen to attend to this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,057,933 (Hudson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,867,884 (Rozzi). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 as amended generally concerns an image processing method of generating quantized output data having four-component output of cyan, magenta, yellow and black for an output device from image data having three-component input of cyan, magenta and yellow. The method includes using a processor to perform the steps of inputting image data of a pixel of interest, generating input data by adding error data, calculated from color difference data of pixels around the pixel of interest, to the image data, and extracting the high-order bit data from each of the three-component input of the generated input data. The processor further performs the steps of deciding the quantized output data of the pixel of interest and output density data of the pixel of interest, by referring to a multidimensional table based upon the extracted high-order bit data, wherein the multidimensional table stores a correspondence between the input data, the

output data and the output density data, and wherein the output density data has the three-component input of cyan, magenta and yellow, and represents a density of an output image reproduced by the output device based upon the quantized output data, and calculating the color difference data of the pixel of interest by subtracting the decided output density data from the generated input data. The quantized output data included in the multidimensional table is decided such that a cyan dot and a magenta dot are not simultaneously output by the output device in an area where a value of the cyan component and a value of the magenta component are low, and is decided so as to minimize the difference between the input data and the output density data in other areas.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 1 provides for (i) extracting the high-order bit data from each of the three-component input of the generated input data, (ii) deciding the quantized output data of the pixel of interest and output density data of the pixel of interest, by referring to a multidimensional table based upon the extracted high-order bit data, wherein the multidimensional table stores a correspondence between the input data, the output data and the output density data, and that (iii) the quantized output data included in the multidimensional table is decided such that a cyan dot and a magenta dot are not simultaneously output by the output device in an area where a value of the cyan component and a value of the magenta component are low, and is decided so as to minimize the difference between the input data and the output density data in other areas. The applied references of Hudson and Rozzi are not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

As understood by Applicant, Hudson discloses a method which uses an LUT to store 32-bits of CMYK values. See Hudson, column 4, lines 1 to 20; and Abstract.

However, Hudson is not seen to disclose or suggest that quantized output data is included in a multidimensional table. In addition, Hudson is not seen to disclose or suggest referring to a multidimensional table based upon extracted high-order bit data. Accordingly, Hudson is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) extracting the high-order bit data from each of the three-component input of the generated input data, (ii) deciding the quantized output data of the pixel of interest and output density data of the pixel of interest, by referring to a multidimensional table based upon the extracted high-order bit data, wherein the multidimensional table stores a correspondence between the input data, the output data and the output density data, and that (iii) the quantized output data included in the multidimensional table is decided such that a cyan dot and a magenta dot are not simultaneously output by the output device in an area where a value of the cyan component and a value of the magenta component are low, and is decided so as to minimize the difference between the input data and the output density data in other areas.

In addition, Rozzi has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Hudson. In particular, Rozzi is not seen to disclose or suggest foregoing features (i) to (iii).

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, independent Claims 7 and 9 are apparatus and computer-readable recording medium claims, respectively, which generally correspond to method Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 9 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Finally, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner conduct a personal or telephonic interview with Applicant's representative regarding this case, before the Examiner takes this filing into consideration. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative as indicated below.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/John D. Magluyan/
John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200